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Message Text

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50
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 SY-04 NEA-14 EB-11 MC-02 XMB-07

COME-00 AID-20 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 SWF-02

CU-05 IGA-02 DRC-01 CIEP-03 FRB-03 /184 W
---------- 123751
P 071250Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1826

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, US
SUBJ: SALE OF GE LOCOMOTIVES

REF: A. KHARTOUM 1819; B. STATE 169610; C. STATE 92724

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT STORY CARRIED SUNA ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER MORNING AUGUST 7. "THE US EXPORT-IMPORT BANK WILL FINANCE A PLAN FOR REALIZING AN ALL DIESEL-DRIVEN HAULING CAPACITY OF THE RAILWAYS. TWNETY HEAVY DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES AND TEN LIGHT DIESEL ENGINES (SIC) WILL BE SUPPLIED UNDER A LOAN OFFERED BY THE US EXPORT-IMPORT BANK. AN EQUAL NUMBER OF LOCOMOTIVES WILL BE PURCHASED UNDER THE ASSISTANCE BEING OFFERED TO THE SUDAN BY THE FEDERAL GERMAN GOVERNMENT."

2. BASED ON INSTRUCTION REF C, EMBASSY ON MAY 8 INFORMED GENERAL MANAGER WASFI OF SUDAN RAILWAYS IN SWIRTING OF EXIM APPROVAL OF A CREDIT OF $11,079,747 FOR PURCHASE OF TWENTY GE LOCOMOTIVES. REF B STATES THAT EXIM WILL NOT CONCLUDE ARRANGEMENTS RE "FINAL COMMITMENT" FOR EXIM PARTICIPATION. SUDANESE UNDOUBTEDLY TOOK MAY 8 NOTIFI-
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CATION TO MEAN THAT FINAL APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN.

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ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD AND PROBABLY DO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL US ASSISTANCE WAS CAST IN DOUBT AS A RESULT OF THE RELEASE OF THE TERRORISTS, THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS IS PLAYING EXIM PARTICIPATION AS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT. MOREOVER, SUNA STORY QUOTED PARA 1 ABOVE POST-DATES AUGUST 4 RETURN TO KHARTOUM OF GNERAL MANAGER WASFI FROM THE US, WHERE HE REPORTEDLY ARRANGED FOR FINANCING WITH "AMERICAN BANKS" FOR LOCOMOTIVE PURCHASE (REF A).

3. WHILE WE HAVE RECEIVED NO RECENT QUERY FROM SUDANESE REGARDING THIS MATTER, BELIEVE DEPT. MAY WISH TO HAVE EMBASSY INFORM GOS OF DECISION PARA 11 REF B BEFORE LOCAL PUBLICITY, WHICH IS MISLEADING PUBLIC AS WELL AS FOREIGN COMMUNITY IN KHARTOUM, GETS OUT OF HAND.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
BERLIND

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NNN

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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